

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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F780001-0549

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Control: 18461
Rec'd: October 29, 1961
10:45 p.m.Info
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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 877, OCTOBER 29, 7 PM

PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 877 BONN PRIORITY 777 INFORMATION LONDON
576 MOSCOW 551 PARIS 622 POLAD USAREUR 484

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESELE AND MCGUIRE

REF: BERLIN TEL 875 TO DEPT, 762.0221

LATER DEVELOPMENTS ON AUTOBAHN

US WESTBOUND ASSISTANCE VEHICLE DENIED ENTRY WHEN ARRIVED
BABELSBERG AT 1500. BERLIN COMMAND PROVOST MARSHAL PROCEEDED
AT ONCE TO SOV CHECK POINT, WHERE NINE SOV OFFICERS WERE CONGREGATED
AFTER SHORT WAIT SOV LT. COLONEL IN CHARGE, LEOSHKO, ARRIVED.
BC PROVOST MARSHAL TOLD HIM VEHICLE WITH VALID FLAG ORDERS HAD
NOT BEEN PERMITTED PROCEED ON AUTOBAHN, VEHICLE NOT RPT NOT
MAKING A PATROL, BUT MERELY AN ASSISTANCE VEHICLE, AND EXPLAINED
TYPE ASSISTANCE US VEHICLE PROVIDED. SOV COLONEL IN CHARGE
SAID MEN IN VEHICLES WERE CLEARLY MPS AND THEREFORE CONSTITUTED
MP PATROLS AND SUCH PATROLS NOT PERMITTED ON AUTOBAHN. HE CITED
PROTESTS MADE EARLIER TO GEN WATSON ON AUTOBAHN "PATROLS."
BC PROVOST MARSHAL ASKED IF SOVS INTENDED TO FULFILL "PATROL
FUNCTION;" SOVS REPLIED THAT SUCH NOT CASE, BUT THAT SOVS
"CONTROLLED" AUTOBAHN. SOV COL SAID NO FURTHER DISCUSSION USEFUL
AS HE ACTING UNDER ORDERS SOV COMMANDANT WHO IN TURN UNDER
ORDERS MARSHAL KONIEV. INTERVIEW TOOK ABOUT 25 MINUTES; SOVS
APPEARED CORDIAL BUT FIRM. SOV COL. LEOSHKO INSISTED US VEHICLE
DID NOT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, BUT ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT PATROL.

PICKING UP SOV OBJECTION TO USE OF CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE MPS,
BERLIN COMMAND IS ORDERING ANOTHER MILITARY ASSISTANCE VEHICLE

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| ACTION ASSIGNED TO | GER | ACTION TAKEN | DATE OF ACTION | DIRECTIONS TO RM/R |
| NAME OF OFFICER | 7 | | 10-30 | Feb |
| OFFICE SYMBOL | | | | |

403

F780001-0550

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-2- 877, OCTOBER 29, 7 PM FROM BERLIN

TO MAKE EAST-WEST TRIP TO HELMSTEDT 1900 HOURS WITH MEN IN ORDINARY UNIFORMS. (VEHICLES HAVE NOT GENERALLY BEEN MARKED AS MP VEHICLES BUT PERSONNEL HAVE WORN RECOGNIZABLE MP HATS, ARM BANDS AND SHOULDER INSIGNIA. REMOVAL THESE INSIGNIA APPEARS IN KEEPING WITH OUR CONTINUING ASSERTION WE NOT ENGAGED IN PATROLLING FUNCTIONS BUT IN SENDING ORDINARY MILITARY VEHICLES TO LEND ASSISTANCE TO TRAVELERS.)

PENDING OUTCOME THIS AND PRESUMABLY OTHER SUCH TRIPS WE DEFERRING SUBMISSION PROTEST TO KARLSHORST.

FRENCH WESTBOUND ASSISTANCE VEHICLE MENTIONED REFTEL ARRIVED AT HELMSTEDT AT 1300 STARTED BACK EASTBOUND AT 1330 AND ARRIVED CHECK POINT BRAVO BABELSBERG AT 1525 HOURS.

BRITISH VEHICLE SCHEDULED TO RETURN FROM CHECKPOINT BRAVO WESTBOUND TO HELMSTEDT AT 1800 HOURS.

FIRST PLATOON OF ENGINEER COMPANY THAT IS TO BE REPLACED BY INCOMING COMPANY LATER DURING WEEK (BERLIN'S 872 TO DEPT, 772 BONN) STARTED OUTWARD MOVEMENT EARLY AFTERNOON OCT 29. CONVOY CLEARED BABELSBERG AT 1456 HOURS, ARRIVED AT SOV CHECK POINT MARIENBORN 1755, CLEARED, US CHECKPOINT HELMSTEDT AT 1815. NO INCIDENTS REPORTED.

DML

LIGHTNER

Note: Advance copy S-O 10/29/CWO-JRL

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